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Docket No.: 071194-0011

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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JUN 29 2004

In re Application of

J. Howard Smith, et al.

Serial No.: 09/780,979

Filed: February 9, 2001

For: DATA COMMUNICATION  
CONTROLLER AND METHOD

Examiner: Chirag Shah

Group Art Unit: 2664

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Washington, DC 20231PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

✓ Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on  
page 2 of this paper.

✓ Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.